

## THE KNOXVILLE WHIG.



"The union of lakes—the union of lands—  
The union of States none can sever—  
The union of hearts—the union of hands—  
And the flag of our Union forever."

### STAND BY THE OLD FLAG.

"The conspiracy is now known. Armies have been raised, war is levied to accomplish it. There are only two sides to the question. Every man must be for the United States, or against it. There can be no neutral in this war—only patriots or traitors."—Starkey A. Douglas, at Chicago, April 11, 1861.

"Whenever they (the Rebels) have the power, they drive before them like tigers the Southern people, as they would also drive us. True, there may be some they aids, they would invade us, and we would repel them. Absolutely assured of these things, I am ready to stand by you, and to think of peace on any terms." He who entertains the sentiment is fit only to be a slave, and he who utters it at this time, is, moreover, a traitor to his country, who deserves the scorn and contempt of all honorable men."—GENERAL HARRIS.

"What right has the North assumed? What justice has been denied? And what cause, founded in justice and right, has been withheld? Can either of you today name one single act of wrong, deliberately and purposely done by the government at Washington, of which the South has a right to complain? I challenge the answer."—Hon. A. H. Stevens, 1861.

"Let Truth and Falsehood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?" MILTON.

"If any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot."—JESUS A. DIX.

From the Springfield, Ill., Daily State Journal.

**Letter from East Tennessee.**  
General Burnside's Advance.—The Rebel Retreat.—Capture of Loudon.—Sufferings of Union Men in East Tennessee.—Their Joy at Deliverance.—Difficulties of the march through the Mountains.—Rebel Braggianism, etc.

HEADQUARTERS 12 DIV., 25th ARMY CORPS.,  
Loudon, Tennessee.

**Editors' Journal.**—Our division arrived here September 4th, and found the place in the quiet possession of the advance cavalry brigade, under command of Col. Graham.—Gen. Buckner, who was in command, had heard of the approach of the Yankees and began evacuating Loudon during the last day of August, leaving Scott's cavalry to guard the last train of cars, and to cover their flight with the destruction by fire of the noble railroad bridge which spanned the Tennessee river at this point. This bridge was near 2,000 feet in length, built of hard pine in the best manner. The rebels were much alarmed for its safety, and have kept a large guard here for two years past to prevent its destruction. The palisades erected for its defense are very substantial, and will come in good play for the use of our in its place.

I subjoin an account of the action here from the pen of an eye witness, Capt. Wm. M. Alexander, one of the first citizens, in point of intelligence and respectability, and I may add, a noble, high-minded man, who has been deeply injured by the rebels, after finding that neither bribe, cogency nor threats, could suffice to turn him from his devotion to the Union. He has a wife of the same stripe, a worthy partner, upon whom the chivalry have heaped every abuse, but who did not fail to lash them with her tongue whenever opportunity offered.—Captain Alexander's statement is as follows:

"On Wednesday, the 2d inst., about 10 o'clock A. M., the United States troops appeared on the range of hills opposite the town. The rebels, in anticipation of their coming, had already planted two pieces of artillery on the hill northwest of the town, and one near the river, and with some six or seven hundred of Scott's cavalry remained with a view to protect the retreating trains. The rebels fired first from their batteries on the United States troops. The fire was immediately returned. At the second fire the rebel battery at the river was dismounted, which was forthwith loaded off, while the shells fell rapidly around the depot and trains, and among the groups of cavalry scattered through the town, killing one rebel near the writer. The trains left, and the shells soon cleared the town of the enemy. In the meantime the two pieces of artillery on the hill unlimbered and followed the retreat. The bridge, about the same time, became enveloped in a sheet of flame, and soon, with a loud crash, fell a mass of ruins into the river, seething and boiling not unlike an angry chafing, full and prophetic, verifying the predictions of the Union men here (when charged with an attempt to burn the bridge,) that when the noble structure was destroyed it would be done by the rebels.

There was no damage done by the shells to the town, the shelling having ceased soon after the rebels left. I was in the town during the shelling, and, living near the depot, hung out a white flag, to indicate the enemy had left, and to stop the further shelling of the town and secure the safety of the citizens, which, I am happy to say, or some other cause, had its effect."

Knoxville was occupied about the same time, with no show of resistance. The rebel troops had been withdrawn from there, and their last brigades were passing southward through this place at the time our cavalry advance was heralded. Although the United States forces had for months been expected, yet their sudden arrival took every one by surprise—so little was actually known here by the rebels or Union men of the approach of the grand expedition that was to release this vast region, known as East Tennessee, from its thraldom of oppression. No pen can describe the sufferings endured by the true-hearted portion of the inhabitants during the reign of terror which has existed throughout this entire region since the outset of the war—the many anxious longings for succor, often promised, but ending in deep and bitter disappointment, and despairing of the ability of the Government to afford relief, were imperiled by necessity to take sides with the rebel cause, in order to provide for the wants of their families, and many others would have followed suit, but for the noble conduct of Captain Alexander and others of the same faith, who contributed food from their own stock of provisions, and cheered up the drooping spirits of their weak-kneed and despairing brothers. All honor to the noble band who remained true

under every trial, and under an almost daily threat that their lives would be taken if they continued to hold out against the rebel authority!

I wish I could convey to the minds of my readers a truthful conception of the difficulties encountered by this army in its march through the wild and desolate region embraced between the Cumberland river and Kingston, Tennessee. This division left Lebanon, Ky., on Monday, August 17th, and was almost constantly in motion until Friday, September 4th, when it pitched its tents on the banks of the Tennessee at this place. Forty miles only of the route from Lebanon to Columbia, Ky., was accomplished on a "puff" road. On leaving Columbia we took leave of the last semblance of a worked road, and went at once to the furthest possible extreme (as I then thought,) from that most desirable institution. Our route now lay through a thinly inhabited region contested ground, which has changed owners so often recently that the residents know not from day to day whether rebel or Union forces would be in the ascendancy and in consequence, the farms and dwellings are almost bare of provisions for man or beast. The roads are full of rocks which, in places, form miniature barriers to our progress, giving us, unawares, an earnest of what is to come.

The march from Columbia to Crossville, crossing of the Cumberland, though only sixteen miles, occupied a full day—the last nine miles of the route being especially laborious. At Crossville we encountered an obstacle that engaged our attention more than 48 hours before we could bid it farewell. This was nothing less than the great popular bluff on the south side of the river which stands as a sort of sentinel or outpost of the Cumberland Mountains, and presents what would be termed at first sight, an impassable barrier to the passage of an army. But we have yet to discover the obstacle that cannot be overcome by the genius of the universal Yankee nation. Part of this bluff is as steep as an ordinary stair way, and before the rebels were made by the troops the resemblance to a broad stone stair case with railings or casings on each side was very striking. The troops worked night and day filling between the steps in order to give the rebels a foothold, and finally the ascent was accomplished. When I labor on that it required fourteen horses and twenty men with a "towline" or rope, placed in front, and pulling with all their might, others pushing at the wheels, and frequent stoppages to rest, in order to get a single piece of ordnance up this rough stony path, will appreciate the labor involved in crossing it with a large army, with all its paraphernalia, not the least item of which was our two hundred great wagons, heavily loaded with subsistence and forage, to be used with care, for it is our main dependence for our journey through the mountains. Great credit is due to Brig. Gen. White, commanding the division, and to Cols. Moore and Chapman, commanding brigades, for the energy and perseverance displayed by them on this occasion. The soldiers, too, worked well and showed real determination. We crossed the hill on Monday, August 24, at noon and rode ten miles in peaceful happiness in the sacred precincts of the household circle.

Hopk.—How sweet the sound! If one loved spot on earth round which thundersingers, the voices of rest, award which we turn from the cares and pieties of life, the place where we may taste, unrestrained, the sweetest of social intercourses, and forgetting for a time its terrors, of the outside world, we may now in peaceful happiness in the sacred precincts of the household circle.

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SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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